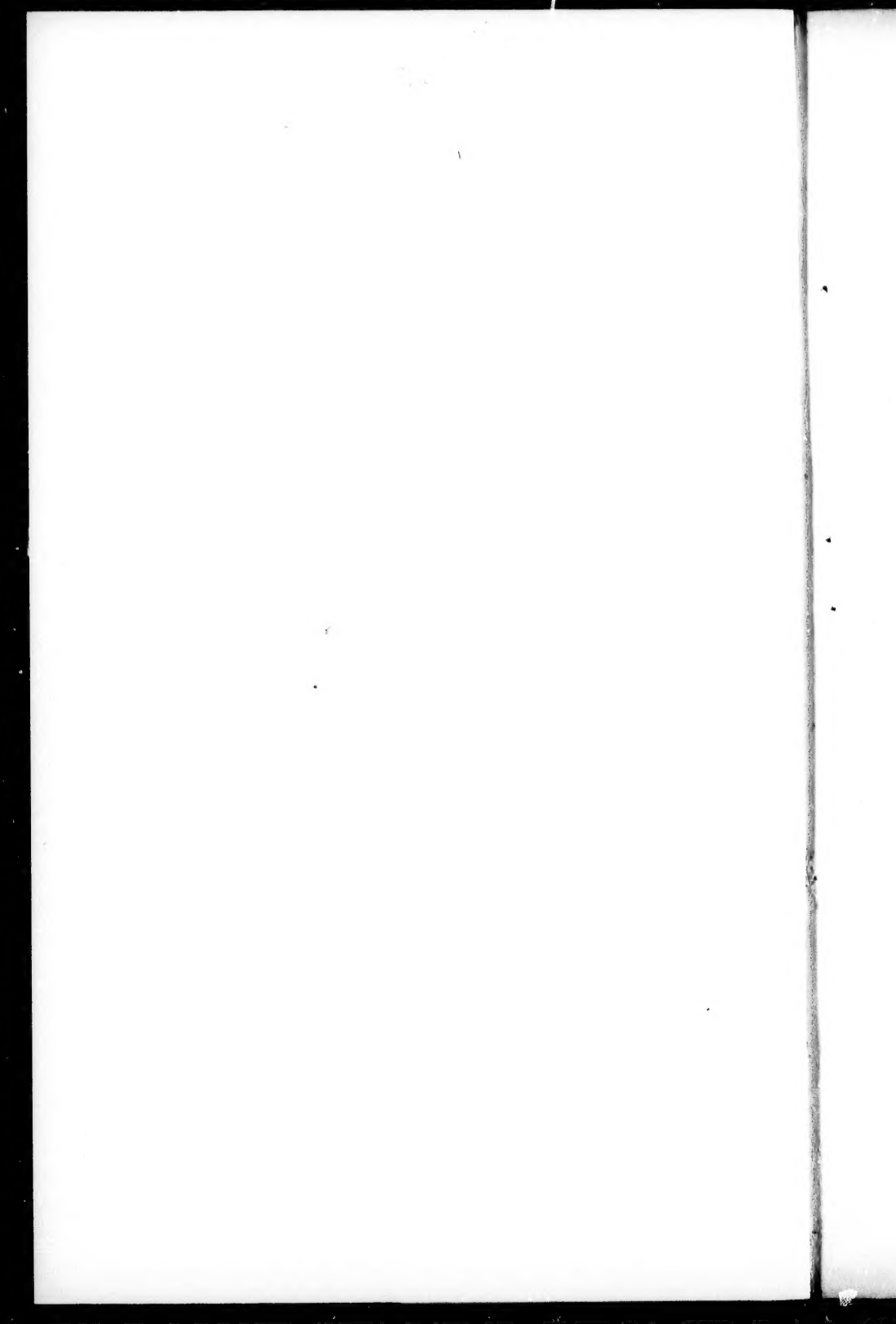




REMARKS
FOR
EMIGRANTS.

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A Settler at Stratford, Huron District, Canada West.

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REMARKS FOR EMIGRANTS.

I HAVE lived in the bush or woods of Canada since July, 1833, in the Huron Tract, belonging to the Canada Company, and am perfectly conversant with all the difficulties and obstacles which an emigrant may meet with—nay more, the hardships which emigrants may have endured about the period I refer to, and previously, I have had a share of. The causes of these do not now exist to any extent, as information of the country, settlements by old countrymen, advice, directions and instructions, are now easily found. *It is from my experience alone that I write.* There is no fabled narration, no got-up story, no fanciful allurement to induce my countrymen to emigrate, in any thing which I have written. I only pen or write the facts as they have come under my notice, and the facts which have occurred in my own life in the woods of Canada, or from the statements of credible persons, and who are still alive to testify to the truth of what I write.

“The Life of a Backwoodsman; or, particulars of the Emigrant’s situation in settling on the wild Land of Canada,” was published in 1843. This life, after a few prefatory remarks shewing the advantages of emigration, and its success, embraced the following particulars:—

- I. The seasons in Canada, and the appearance of the bush.
- II. The emigrant arriving in Canada, choosing or fixing upon his land, with the character of the soil.
- III. First operations by an emigrant or settler, with his first winter and summer in Canada.

IV. Chopping, clearing, and fencing the land.

V. Crops—wheat, oats, barley, peas, potatoes, turnips, buck-wheat and Indian corn, and grass seeds.

VI. Remarks on the success of emigrants already settled in the townships near the village of Stratford (Huron district), current coin or currency, markets, &c.

There were in the above "Life" several diagrams or printed cuts, illustrating the position of the lots of land, shanty, log-house, &c. This "Life" I have looked over and revised, but I have added nothing to the statements of *how* an emigrant gets along in the bush, for these are the same. They are derived from actual experience.

The above "Life" will enable an intending emigrant to have a very correct notion of an emigrant's first start, and subsequent life and settlement in this country; and by a reference to any of the small maps published by the Canada Company, the position of the townships in this district will be easily seen, and a geographical view of the province of Canada West (formerly Upper Canada) presented at a glance.

But the question may be asked—"Who are those who should emigrate?" I reply in the *first place*, that all small farmers, and labourers accustomed to farm work or even other labour, will be *specially* benefitted by emigrating. The means, great or small, which they may bring with them, when taken care of, they will be enabled to increase at a rapid rate. *Secondly*, extensive farmers, who having large families to provide for and no prospect at home of any competent provision for them "for the time to come." A family of boys is a *fortune* to any emigrant in Canada. *Thirdly*, mechanics, such as blacksmiths, carpenters, waggon-makers, &c., for there is this resource, which many avail themselves of, that if they do not follow their trade, they can settle on land. But tradesmen do well and make money, when located in country villages in Canada, and in settlements removed from villages; for the settlers around will avail themselves of the advan-

tages of tradesmen in their neighbourhood, but more so if the lands in the settlement have been settled on for a few years.

All who are comfortably situated at home and with the prospect of a competent provision for their families, let them not emigrate, for what do they want? If they do come let no regrets follow, for there need not in any case, as they can also be comfortable in Canada and more independent.

No man, with or without a family, who is sober, industrious, not afraid of difficulties, persevering in spirit, and banishes all prideful notions he may have acquired, and brings with him if he can some money, less or more, as a reserve after he locates in the bush, or in a town or village, need hesitate one moment of embarking for Canada, if emigration has been thought of by him. Let him, however, acquire, before he emigrates, some information of this country, see its extent, its boundaries and divisions, the districts as divided into townships, *and above all have some idea of a settler's life, and what he has to do in the bush in Canada.* This latter information he can obtain by a perusal of the "Life of a Backwoodsman" referred to above.

The question may also be asked—"should those emigrate who are destitute?" Certainly not large bodies of men, women, and children, who are completely destitute. I have in view the suggestions of many in the old country, who say that as a cure of the present painful distress in Ireland and the Highlands of Scotland, send those so situated to Canada or other suitable colonies. By sending such, or encouraging them to go, in large bodies to Canada, without some plan or provision by Government, or by the Societies or by others who are wishful to promote emigration in this way, to aid these emigrants on their arrival; they will only add misery to what was previously endured, and entail an unjust burden on us, the colonists. Let me not be misunderstood, for I refer here only to emigration *in masses*. Where those, however, who are destitute at home, have friends or acquaintances in Canada, in locations where land can be obtained, and where some

help can be extended to them, then there is some prospect of emigration being to them a speedy benefit.

This subject was alluded to by Lord John Russell in his celebrated speech on the 25th January last, as to the state of Ireland. He said, and justly—"There is another subject, likewise, with respect to which I am not prepared to make a statement to the House, but upon which I know large expectations are entertained in Ireland—I allude to emigration. I confess that, although Parliament may assist emigration to a certain extent, the extravagant expectations which are entertained on this head can never possibly be fulfilled."—"Then before we should make extraordinary efforts to increase emigration, it is necessary to consider an important point. *If we attempt to go beyond that which is the ordinary annual emigration*, and to convey a million of persons at once across the ocean, you must also enquire what funds—what means there are in the country to which they must be carried, to procure them subsistence."—"It appeared to me, however, that the best mode by which emigration could be promoted was by taking charge of the emigrant, not at his present place of abode—not at the port of embarkation—but at the port where he disembarked, and then convey him to some field where he would find a market for his labour," &c. It was further stated by him, that the amount of emigration in 1845 to the North American colonies was 31,303, and in the three first quarters of 1846, the number was 42,404 who went to our North American colonies. "The character (he said) of the emigration in 1846 is very similar to that of the two previous seasons." "Mr. Hawke, an emigration agent, stated in his report, that he was not aware that the number of indigent settlers in 1846 had been much greater, in proportion, than usual; but there certainly was a large number of the Irish emigrants in a state of destitution as to clothes and bedding, far exceeding any thing he had ever before witnessed." "Mr. Buchanan, the agent at Quebec, stated in his report,

“ there is little, if any, distress among the emigrants of last year, unless the consequence of their own fatuity. Employment is generally to be procured at remunerative wages, and provisions and necessities are plentiful,” &c.

But I have no hesitation in recommending *to all*, the three answers to the above question, “ who are those who should emigrate ?” and the brief remarks which follow applicable to that question.

As to the settlement of lands by the Canada Company, there can be no easier method, unless land be actually *gifted away*. They grant lands in three ways :— 1st, for cash ; 2dly, for a few years, to be paid by yearly instalments ; and 3dly, by lease for *ten years*, and no money in the latter plan being required to be paid down. The rent is a little more than the usual rate of interest on the price of the land, which price is fixed as at the date of the lease ; it is payable on 1st February yearly, and the principal sum in the lease can be paid at any time within the ten years.

The population of the Huron District in 1841 was about 7101, and in spring of 1846 it was 14,983, and now is supposed to be over 17,000.

There are four Agricultural Societies in the District, by whom over £300 last year was distributed in premiums ; the Huron District Society at Goderich, Stratford Society, (premiums paid by it in 1846, £58 : 12 : 6) ; another on the London Road at the Devon settlement at Usborne, &c. (premiums paid, near £50 in 1846) ; and one at Tuckersmith and Mackillop.

JOHN J. E. LINTON.

APPENDIX.

When the emigrant who is wishful to settle in the Huron tract, arrives at Toronto or Hamilton in Canada, he will easily find out his route to the Huron district. At Haysville, about $17\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of Stratford, Mr. George Hobson will direct the emigrant onwards; and at the Huron Hotel, in the Huron district, $12\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of Stratford, Mr. T. W. Robinson, or near that place, Andrew Helmer, Esq. J. P. will be able to give any additional information wanted; and further on, Mr. S. Fryfogle, $9\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Stratford.

At Stratford there is an Agent of the Canada Company, J. C. W. Daly, Esq.; and further on, $12\frac{1}{2}$ miles, there is a village called Mitchell, with a grist and saw mill, taverns, store, &c. There are good locations of land for emigrants in the neighbourhood of Mitchell, and further on, 5 miles, at Carron Brook, Mr. Robert Donkin, from the county of Northumberland, England, will be able to give such information and direction as any emigrant may wish.

In the neighbourhood of Carron Brook there are the Townships of Hibbert, Mackillop, and Logan, where there are blocks of land to any desirable extent to be found.

Further on is a settlement at Mackillop and Tuckersmith, a store and post-office, and where there is an Agricultural Society. Mr. George Gouinlock, jun. is Post Master. There is excellent land here, and well watered.* The emigrant is then within 20 miles of Goderich, the district town.

J. J. E. LINTON.

12th March, 1847.

Stratford, (*Huron District.*)

* C. Van Egmond, Esq. resides in the neighbourhood, a gentleman well acquainted with the character of the country, and whose advice may be safely relied on.

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